

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Jack Bishaw, 67, retired federal civil service worker

" . . . every class [at Waikīkī Elementary School] has their place around the flagpole. We had our station where we supposed to stand and we salute the flag; pledge allegiance and after that the flag was raised. I remember my sister was the drummer. She used to drum the class back to their class."

Jack Bishaw, part-Hawaiian, was born in Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu in January 1919, to Henrietta Kaiena Bishaw and Christian Kaleianuenue Bishaw. While still a baby, the family moved to the Hamohamo section of Waikīkī where they made their home for the next six years.

In about 1925, the Bishaws moved to Molokai. Ten years later, Jack Bishaw returned to Waikīkī and studied at McKinley High School, graduating in 1938. In 1942, he married "Peachy" Ewaliko, another Waikīkī resident.

A retired federal worker since 1974, Bishaw, his wife, and other members of the Ewaliko clan still call Waikīkī their home.

Tape No. 13-27-1-85 and 13-28-1-85

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Jack Bishaw (JB)

March 20, 1985

Waikīkī, Hawai'i

BY: Michi Kodama-Nishimoto (MK)

MK: This is an interview with Mr. Jack Bishaw on March 20, 1985 at his home in Waikīkī, Honolulu, Hawai'i. The interviewer is Michi Kodama-Nishimoto.

Mr. Bishaw, for the first question that I have for you today, I want to know what your mother's name was?

JB: My mother's name was Henrietta Kaiena Bishaw.

MK: Tell me about your mother's family background.

JB: Well, she was born in the year March 19, 1892, and the place was Kōloa, Kaua'i. She was brought up in Kaua'i. Her education was in Honolulu at Normal School. She had several sisters. One was Rose. Another one was Patti and Sophia.

MK: Since your mother went to Normal School, what was her occupation?

JB: Well, I really don't know. Probably housewife, I think. (Laughs)

MK: What was your father's name?

JB: My father's name was Christian Kaleianuenue Bishaw. He was born August 8, 1893 in Honolulu. He died in May 10, 1969 in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i. My mother died in July 10, 1969 in Ho'olehua, Moloka'i.

MK: What do you know about your father's side of the family?

JB: Well, my father had a big family. Mostly all of his family came from Moloka'i. But his own family he had--his brothers were Clevis, the oldest, Henry then came him, Christian. Then he had a step-brother Joseph and two step-sisters--half-sisters rather and half-brother, Cecelia and Esther Bishaw.

MK: What do you know about your father's father?

JB: Well, my great-grandfather came from Canada. How he came to Hawai'i

probably during the whaling days. Anyway, he came and he landed on Maui. That's how he started. He had my grandfather on Maui. I think he come from Canada, I think he was panning gold in Canada.

One story I heard about my great-grandfather was when my grandfather was born. He told his common-law wife that he was going back to Canada and get his gold. So not thinking that he would come back and those days it took a long time to go to Canada because the transportation was sailing ship or something like that. But when he finally came back, he brought his gold and he gave it to his wife. But before that, according to my dad, he wanted the child. He wanted his son.

In those days, according to my dad, he went to court to claim the child. What they did, they put the child in the center of the court. The mother stood one side. The dad stood the other side. Whoever that child goes to has the right to that child.

The child went to the dad. The dad took the child and loved him but turned the child over with the gold to the mother. That was the story of my grandfather.

From there, I think he went to Moloka'i. He lived there. I think he had a daughter over there which was a half-sister to my grandfather. They all dead now. He died in Kalaupapa and was buried in Kalaupapa.

MK: Hm-mm. An interesting story. And now, we come to you. When were you born?

JB: Well, I was born in Kamō'ili'ili in the year January 5, 1919. As a baby, my parents moved to Waikīkī. I don't know whether I was six months or what. But we moved to Waikīkī and was brought up in Waikīkī.

MK: Would you know why your family moved to Waikīkī?

JB: Well, one reason was that the place they were staying, they sold it. And they moved down to Waikīkī which was Lemon [Road] and Paoakalani [Avenue].

MK: At that time, I was wondering, how many brothers and sisters did you have?

JB: At that time, with myself, up to 1925 I had my oldest brother Christian. Next came Donald and me, Jack, Solomon and Alexander which was my brother here in Honolulu. I had two sisters in Honolulu. Was Henrietta the oldest and Virginia. Then I had two--I had another brother and sister which was born on Moloka'i.

MK: I was wondering when your folks moved to Waikīkī, you lived Lemon [Road] and Paoakalani [Avenue]. How come you folks lived at Lemon [Road] and Paoakalani [Avenue]?

JB: Well, that's where the family had lived. I think it was a big place. They had a big two-story building. We stayed under--the first floor. My grandmother them stayed on the second floor. Had another house which was Joe Bishaw's, my uncle's. In other words, all the Bishaws lived there. The rest of the Bishaws anyway.

MK: Try describe the house that your family lived in. You lived downstairs. What did it look like? That house.

JB: Ah, you know before them days you had all lattice. It was big. It was boarded above the ground but part of that was on the dirt, you know. But coming into the parlor and the bedroom was all flooring. It was a two-story building. On the outside [was] the step going up to the main floor of the house. That's where my grandmother and granddaddy lived.

MK: How long had your grandmother and grandfather been living there, you think?

JB: Well, I was still living in Honolulu. I think my granddaddy died before 1925, either 1924. I think he died in that year because I was still here. As for my grandmother, we moved to Moloka'i already. I think she passed away between, approximately 1929.

MK: You said, your uncle Joe Bishaw also lived on the same lot.

JB: Well, he stayed there with my aunt Cecelia.

MK: How big was that lot, that Bishaw lot?

JB: Oh, gee, I couldn't describe how big it is but I wonder if it was 150 foot frontage and ran back about another 100 foot, something like that.

MK: How did the other houses in the neighborhood look like?

JB: Oh, they all wen look according to that era! (Laughs) That's the only way I can describe it because all wooden, you know.

MK: Now, when you think back to your small kids days, okay, from the time 1919 to 1925, try tell me who your neighbors were and something that stands out in your mind about each family. Starting with your block. Okay, you start with your block and tell me about the families.

JB: Well, it's across the street from my block. That was the Manus. Sam Manu and his sister which was known as "Sista." The name was "Sista." They called their parents "Papa Dear" and "Mama Dolly."

Well, I used to run over there all the time since it was right across from where we was living. I used to run over there and play under their house. I was more familiar with that family.

Up the road on Cartwright [Road], I had another friend which was

George Pacheco. So I used to run around with him. The one which I knew really well was the Manus, Pachecos and "Waiau" Williams.

MK: Where did the Williams live?

JB: They were living on that Lemon Road too.

MK: That "Waiau" Williams is the same Williams whose nickname is "Bayaw"?

JB: "Bayaw." Waiau. Right. Yeah. Well, one day when I went over to the Manus, this was an early morning thing, they were planning to go over to their place on Diamond Head to work in their lot. So when I came over, they used to call me not Jack, they used to call me by my Hawaiian name Kalani, they say, "Kalani, do you want to go with us to our lot?"

I say, "What you gonna do there?"

He say, "We gonna clean the weeds, you know, clean up the place." They didn't have no house there, was just an empty lot but they wanted to clean up the place.

I say, "Yeah, I wanna go!"

She say, "Well, go home and ask. Tell your mom or your dad that you going with us."

I said, "Okay." I ran home, but I didn't run home to my mom. I just stood by the gate and ran back. And then when I ran back, they said, "What? Could you go?"

I say, "Yeah. Mom say I could go."

So we went. You had to go through the zoo, over that Makee Island where that swamp is, go through the zoo. There were lot of little streams that comes down from there. We had to walk all the way to Diamond Head. That was just across the zoo, toward the mountain side. Then we came to their lot. It was just full with weeds. So they began cutting weeds. I don't know if I was in the way or what but. (Laughs)

Anyway, lunch hour--they brought their kini 'ai. You know what is kini 'ai? It's their poi and their fish and whatever. It was getting late.

When we came home, the sun was just about to set. All this time, my parents was looking for me. They didn't know where I was. When I came home, we all come home, so I went home, I thanked them.

So guess what? When I reach home, I had the beating of my life for not coming home and letting them know where I went. That was an incident in my life.

MK: So you were good friends with the Manus?

JB: Well, we were all good friends. Since I was small I always run to that side just right across the street. You don't have to worry about cars or what. There were hardly any anyway.

MK: Then I was wondering when you went to play with your friends, when you were that small, what did the kids do? What did you folks do?

JB: Well, we used to run down the beach--swim. Or as I said, they had a little stream that running from right across Paoakalani [Avenue] between Paoakalani [Avenue] and 'Ōhūa [Avenue], running all the way from the beach. But it was on Kalākaua Avenue, it was a tunnel underneath, it came through this side, back of the store, and it was open. We used to play in that stream. Every time we play, we get wet and dirty. We come home and get whipping.

MK: You mentioned the zoo. Tell me about the special places that you folks used to go kinda play around in.

JB: Well, we never did play too much at the zoo. We just went there to see Daisy, the elephant. They had a gorilla there by the name of Jenny. That was the most popular, at my time, was Daisy and Jenny besides the lions.

We always go to the bandstand side of Waikīkī park [now Kapi'olani Park]. It was beautiful over there. They had a lot of ponds made of rock. Rock ponds--had fresh water, running water and fountains. They had lily [plants] in it. They had lot of goldfishes. It was several, several ponds. Was very pretty.

MK: People told me about the polo fields and the races. What do you remember about that?

JB: Well, the polo field it was on the, what you call that, east side of the park. They used to play polo--the Dillinghams, the Baldwins from Maui, the Castles. But, I wasn't so interested. I used to run and look but didn't stay long. (Laughs)

MK: How about in the area back here, the ma uka area over here. What did you folks do back here for play?

JB: Well, I didn't come up this side too much. You see, them days you play in your own area. Like if you from Hamohamo Road, you gather and play in that area.

If you from Paoakalani [Avenue], you come up to Hamohamo [Road], they would say, "Eh, what this guy doing over here? He don't belong on this side," something like that. So that's why I always stay on my side. But then we know the kids, you know.

As I said, as the kids were getting bigger, they would congregate at the Stonewall or the beach or certain place where they gather.

But then they goes back to doing their own thing.

MK: You mention the Stonewall, when you were five or six years old, was there a Stonewall Gang?

JB: Ah, they had. They had boys that used to, well as I say in the slang, "hang around" the wall like that. But I was too small to notice that.

I used to go down to the beach with my mother and the family. We use to go make 'alamihi and pipipi on the rocks. My mother would make limu. Then we'd try catch fish and things like that.

MK: Right now you talk about getting fresh limu like that over there, yeah. How about people like the manapua [mea'ono-pua'a] man or the candy man? What do you remember about that kind people when you were little?

JB: (Laughs) Ah, well, they used to come around. Every time when the manapua [mea'ono-pua'a] man comes around, you could hear him yelling [i.e., calling out the names of his goods], oh, from maybe one or two blocks down. Then we run home and tell my parents, "Eh, the manapua [mea'ono-pua'a] man is here!"

They say, "Oh, what do you want?"

"I wanna buy pepeiao or something from the manapua [mea'ono-pua'a] man. Them days was very cheap. It was just five cents. You could get certain items for five cents you know.

They would tell me, "No more money! Cannot eat manapua [mea'ono-pua'a] today!" So that's it. But several times they used to buy. Then when they figure that we don't need it, they said, "No more money!"

MK: How about any other peddlers that use to come into the area that you remember?

JB: Well, no, only just the manapua [mea'ono-pua'a] man and things. But when we used to get a penny or something, we used to just run down to the store and buy candy or things like that. Just for a penny.

MK: What stores did you used to go to?

JB: We used to go to Aoki's Store. I remember Aoki Store because it was on Paoakalani [Avenue] side, see. Then Aoki moved to 'Ohua side. What year it did move I really don't know. I wasn't here.

MK: You know, that Aoki Store, what do you remember about the store and the people who ran it?

JB: Well, at that time, I was too young to know. All I wanted to get is my candy or crack seed or whatever and then run out.

MK: Would you remember anything else about the different businesses that was next to Aoki and that area?

- JB: No, because we didn't go out in the front street [Kalākaua Avenue] at that time. We were too young. So what we did was we stayed in our vicinity, across in that stream or with the neighbor right around there. If we go to the zoo, we always go with somebody.
- MK: I notice that the Lemon Holt family was in the same block with you folks.
- JB: Oh, yeah. They were staying just in front of us on the Kalākaua side, Lemon [Road] and Kalākaua [Avenue].
- MK: What do you remember about that family?
- JB: Well, I don't know too much about that family. I just know the name because of my dad and everybody talk about them. That's how it stayed with me by listening to the older people talking.
- MK: You know when you were a small boy, how about your going to church?
- JB: Oh, yes! Oh, yeah, we had to go because my family was church-going people. We had to go to church [i.e., St. Augustine's Church]. We cannot miss the church. The good thing about the church which I really like, we were looking forward [to] that night. I think was Friday night--they had movies over there. Them days was silent pictures. And either you sit on the bench or sit on a mat on the ground. That's how we used to watch our movies.
- MK: What kinds of movies they had?
- JB: Oh, they had mostly cowboys, cowboy picture I remember.
- MK: What do you remember about the priest over there?
- JB: Well, that time was Father Valentin. But then I only know his name was Father Valentin. But I never get to meet him or what. Probably because I was too young.
- MK: I know that you went to Waikīkī [Elementary] School only little while. But tell me, where was Waikīkī [Elementary] School when you went?
- JB: Oh yeah, when I was six years old. You see, I was born in January 5. That makes me six [years old] on 1925, January 5th. I was registered at this Waikīkī [Elementary] School. I had a hard time going there because was I just made six [years old].
- They said, "He supposed to start in September 25." Anyway, my mother work it out that I went there when I make six years old.
- I went to Waikīkī [Elementary] School for six months up until June! The school was on Hamohamo [Road] and Kāneloa Road, between the two roads. I went there for six months.

MK: What do you remember about the six months at that school?

JB: Oh, the six months--every morning we had to, every class has their place around the flagpole. We had our station where we supposed to stand and we salute the flag; pledge allegiance and after that the flag was raised. I remember my sister was the drummer. She used to drum the class back to their class. (Laughs) So everybody march back to their class.

MK: How would they march back to their class?

JB: Oh, they have it arranged which one went first because some went left, some went right, you know. That's what makes it quick. I had a brother who was in the second grade. His school [i.e., classroom] was down here on Paoakalani [Avenue] right across Cartwright [Road]. That was known as the [Waikīkī] Japanese[-language] School. His second grade was there. So what they do, they march up, they congregate at the flag pole. After the [pledge of] allegiance was finished, the flag was raised. They went according to the drum and marched back to their class on Paoakalani [Avenue].

MK: What do you remember about the teachers?

JB: Well, I don't remember much about my teachers. All I know, I went to that school. If the building was still here, I'd know what room was that. (Chuckles)

MK: Let's see, I was wondering, what did your father do for a living when you folks were living here in Waikīkī at that time?

JB: Well, I think he worked at Pearl Harbor. He was a surveyor. Then I always hear him talk about Pālolo Valley. I think he was one of the surveyors work in there, surveying that land over there.

MK: From what you remember, what kind of work did the other families, that you remember from that time, do for a living?

JB: All I know, my Uncle Joe [i.e., Joseph Bishaw] was a musician. He was a musician. That's all I know.

MK: Where did your Uncle Joe play music those days?

JB: Oh, he used to play around. He used to play with people like Joe Kamakau. Gee, some old names that I can't remember.

MK: What instrument was he playing?

JB: Well, he played the guitar.

MK: Then now I know that you folks moved to Moloka'i, yeah, when it was 1925.

JB: [Nineteen] twenty-five, June, yeah.

MK: How come the family moved to Moloka'i?

JB: Well, moving to Moloka'i, that all I remember my parents say, "Well, certain day next week or the following week, we going to Moloka'i." I don't know where was Moloka'i at that time as young as I was. (Laughs) As was getting close, my mother and them I see packing and things. Pretty soon you know, we were going to the boat. I still didn't know where Moloka'i was. But we got on that boat. That steamer was Likeli. It took all night to get to Moloka'i. So we got in Kaunakakai, landed there. The family over there, the Rawlins received us and took us into their homes. We stayed there until our home was ready.

MK: And then where was your home?

JB: You see, when my mother went to Moloka'i she applied for homestead. That was the homestead in Ho'olehua. Ho'olehua, Moloka'i. She and the others were the pioneers at that time.

MK: So what did Ho'olehua look like back then?

JB: Oh, it was something. It's hard to describe because everything was wild. It was plentiful. The land wasn't destroyed yet, you know, what I mean, by pineapple--it was under the Cook Ranch. Where we lived, we had lot of wild fruits like guavas. Oh, they were just loaded in the gulch. There were lot of lantanas. We did our pioneering there. We raised our own crops like vegetables, corn, pumpkin, watermelon, whatever. We raised it ourselves.

MK: When you folks were homesteading over there, what did your mother and father do to support the family?

JB: Well, as I said, the Hawaiians used to have a saying, says "Pa'a ho'okua hana ka lima." In other words, to survive you have to work the land.

That's why I said, we had lot of vegetables. We all plant. We raised chickens, pigs. My dad used to work for the Commission. Oh, the Commission is the Hawaiian Homes Commission. He used to run the tractor, plow people's land who wanted their field to be plowed so they could plant whatever field crops they want like corn, watermelon, pumpkin, squash. You name it. Potatoes, sweet potatoes. They used to [plant] in sweet potatoes.

MK: And that land that your family homesteaded, did they ever lease it out to the pineapple company?

JB: Oh, the year when the pineapple took over was about 1927--they started. They had Libby's [i.e., Libby, McNeill and Libby]. We leased the land to Libby's. They plow the field and planted the crop until harvest. You see, the homestead was getting paid by the tonnage of the pineapple which was harvested. See, all expense was taken out, and then what profit the pineapple make is yours.

MK: Who would actually work the land?

JB: Well, you could work your own land and you still get paid by the company. Because it's your field but then you getting paid. But then when the harvesting of crop the plantation gonna take that out from your profit or whatever.

MK: Then as you were growing up, getting older and bigger, how did you help your family on Moloka'i?

JB: Well, as I said, I used to help like my brothers. We had our own chores to do. We had to do it. Mostly, I was tilling the soil. Planting cabbage, head cabbage, carrots and whatever. Helping with raising the pigs. Feeding the pigs and chickens. Milking the cow. Helping my dad. My brother and I, my two brothers Christian and Donald and I did most of the work with my dad and mother. I was the youngest of the three so they used to catch me ahead all the time. (Laughs)

MK: And then those days, where did you go school?

JB: Well, first when we went to Kaunakakai, we landed in Kaunakakai and stayed with my cousin, my family the Rawlins. So we had to go to school too. I went to school Kaunakakai for about two months there from say, September, oh, a month at Kaunakakai School.

Then we had to move to our place in Ho'olehua, the homestead land. When we got there, we still had to go to school but there were no school in Ho'olehua. There was one schoolhouse in Kualapu'u. That's the Cook's Ranch where the cowboys and their family live. We went to that school.

The class was up to seventh or eighth grade. Was all in one building. One room. I know my teacher at that time was Miss Naehu. She taught first, second and third [grades] on one table. The next teacher had certain classes on another table. That's how we used to go to school there. Until the Ho'olehua Elementary School started. When they had built the elementary school, then we went to the elementary school.

MK: So then, how many years did you go to school in Moloka'i?

JB: Well, when we started at Ho'olehua Elementary [School] I had to start all over from first grade. There was my sister and my two brothers. My other brother was in the second grade. My oldest brother and my sister was in the fifth grade, I think. We went to school there.

There was no cafeteria. Everybody had to bring their home lunch. People used to bring pancakes and whatever they had, ball rice. (Laughs) I always make good friends with my Japanese friends from Kualapu'u. They bring rice in their--it's a can with a chop stick slide on the top. Then you have that little gadget, you move

it out and the chop stick is there. I always eat lunch with them. They give me rice and I give sandwich or whatever I have.

MK: So the Japanese kids, and the Hawaiian kids. . . .

JB: Yeah, we all live together. (Laughs)

MK: What do you remember most about school those days?

JB: Well, it was strict. I remember getting whipping by my teacher, the principal. He used to whip us with the hose, you know, with the hose, the strip. I think them days they allow that because we had whipping. If we come home and tell our parents what we had, we gonna get more whipping! So we had to keep still, you know, just let it go.

MK: What would you do that was so bad that you would get that kind of whipping?

JB: Well, you know, kids, some mischief. Like how I got that whipping, I went down to the teacher's cottage. We supposed to clean the windows, but then had some other kids and they went into the refrigerator. (Chuckles) They seen some soda pops or what. So they call me so I drank soda pops. We were turned in for that. (Laughs)

MK: Oh-hh! Those days when you folks were not at school studying, what did you folks do for play?

JB: Oh, we had all kinds. We had our own games up. You know, kids them days they made their own games. You hardly see those games today. One of them was "Steal Eggs." You know, you gotta have two teams with a circle and you have so many rocks in there. You have to take their eggs. They have to take your eggs, like that. The one that takes all the eggs is the winner.

Then we have, I think, they call it "Elowea." "Elowea" I think it was. You know what's that?

MK: What's that?

JB: Playing with, ah, we use to get Durham bag [Bull Durham]. Tobacco at that time was a lot of Durham. We get the Durham bag and we stuff it with grass. Then tied it strong, and then we make teams. We have to fight with that. If I hit you, you're out. Then you pass it on to the next guy but you have to, you know.

Then we played "Peewee." That's with sticks. Sticks. Playing with, ah, it's hard to describe. If you have the sticks then I could show you. We made our own yoyo. We make our own from the spool thread and things like that. Because there were no stores for toys or what. If you were good in making that [toys] then it comes easy.

MK: So you had that kinds of activities for play, yeah?

JB: Yeah.

MK: As you got older in intermediate school, you were telling me you were really active in the FFA [Future Farmers of America]. Tell me about that, what you folks used to do in FFA [Future Farmers of America].

JB: Well, our advisor Mr. Kennyson, he was an outgoing person. He likes the outdoor life. Our subject with him was agriculture. That's where we had that chapter--FFA [Future Farmers of America] Chapter 15. Nearly once a month, we'd go on a picnic, camping, down at the beach or whatever. We always have these plantation trucks to take us. It was free, you know.

We go Friday after school. The truck pick us up Sunday. Come home. I learned a lot from him. Then we had a farm. I mean we do inside studies--book work and on the field work. The field work like with the chickens, you know. Trap nest, that's egg trapping. Studying the different disease of the chicken like cockcidiosis and roundworm and all that from the chicken. We even work with the pigs. Showed us how to castrate. We all did that. Even today I could do it.

MK: How about work with the plants?

JB: Yeah. We did lot of plant work. What we did, we planted a lot of eucalyptus. We transplant 'em in little containers. After the trees get so big then we put it out in the field where that supposed to go. Lot of the trees are still there yet.

We had gardens and things. We work--like we planted corn. That was all our school work. That comes under the Agriculture Department [at school].

MK: When you were telling me, a big thing was to come to Honolulu in what, '33, '34 for the competitions? Tell me about that.

JB: Oh, the FFA [Future Farmers of America]. When I was in the seventh grade, chee, the chapter started when you in the seventh, eighth and ninth [grade]. So seventh grade they said, "I want you, Bishaw. You and certain one to take certain things and I want you to study this."

Some of them took ornamental plants. I had ornamental plants but that was little too hard for me because of the spelling and you had to name the plant and what they give is not the regular name. I took weed, poultry, swine. Well, everybody had their choice. During that Easter vacation, we came down to Kalākaua [Intermediate] School.

All the schools was place in Kalākaua, in the gym. We ate in the cafeteria. They had places where you go for your exhibit--where you have your contest. See, it was more of a competition. But we never did place in anything.

But we had off day. On our off day since I left Honolulu 1925 and that was my first time back, so I told the kids, "Eh, who wanted to go to Waikīkī?"

He say, "Do you know where Waikīkī is?"

I say, "Just go out because they had streetcar running, just look for Waikīkī and jump on and we come down to Waikīkī." So some of them came with me. That's the first time.

When we came down to Waikīkī well, things look a little different from that time. But I remember the name Paoakalani Avenue. So I got off. I brought my friends with me. Went on Paoakalani [Avenue]. Then went to the Bishaws. Seen them, "Who are you?" so I told 'em.

In those day, when you vist your family, especially when you away, they always give you monetary gift. So I went and seen my Uncle Joe. He gave me some money and he was glad to see me.

Then I came up the road and visit my other uncle. He gave me a monetary gift too. And he gave me a five dollar bill and that was plenty money. (Laughs) Yeah.

So that year, we didn't make good in the contest but we went back and things happen to change. We had our own meeting. Then I brought up the subject, "Why we taking sugarcane? Why can't we take pineapple?" We get pineapple growing all over the place.

In fact, in Maui they had pineapple all over too. Lāna'i, you know. Kaua'i. There were pineapple all over except the Big Island never had pineapple. It came on the list of one of the item that will be judged. Since I brought up that subject on pineapple, I was put on that. I came in first [place]. Me and my friend. But he was in the ninth grade, and I was in the eighth grade. We had to compete with like, Leilehua, McKinley [High Schools]. You know, all the big schools! They were in the twelfth grade! (Laughs)

MK: That was a good idea then, pineapple instead of sugarcane.

JB: Yeah, because, you see, we don't have sugar there. All we go by is by books, pictures. Lot of our pamphlet came from the University of Hawai'i. All you know is write in and it's free, you know. Or we send away to Washington, D.C.

MK: And then, let's see. You stayed on Moloka'i until you graduated ninth grade, yeah. So you stayed Moloka'i kinda long, long time.

JB: Oh, yeah.

MK: I was wondering, when you think back when you compare Moloka'i and Waikīkī, what was the biggest difference you think?

JB: Well, if you put down, until today, I still love Moloka'i because

that's where I learn everything. You know, I mean, not school, even school but the way of living--by the earth. What is hardship. If I ask you what is hardship, I can tell you what is hardship. Because the people there, the first homesteaders like my mother and them and their family which was us had to struggle. There were no jobs like you ask me.

My dad to get groceries--he had to go twelve miles on the horseback from Ho'olehua to Kaunakakai. There were no stores in that vicinity. Then when he have to go early in the morning he comes back about two or three o'clock that morning with groceries tying on the back of the horse in the bag, you know, and strapped to the saddle.

I learned all what I've learned about cutting chicken, kāluaing pig is all from Moloka'i, not from here. I learn how to cook too from Moloka'i. We used to cook not oil stove, not gas stove, not electric. It's the outdoors stove.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

JB: Oil stove, you could make 'em out of kerosene oil can, you know. But then you have to cook rice. You have to cook whatever you gonna cook like stew or whatever. Then you, what you do, you dig a hole in the ground with rocks on the side and have an iron bar running across where you could put three pots or two pots on that. What we use was guava, you know, kindlings, lantana or whatever you have. Kiawe wood, it was very good because of the charcoal. That's where I learned how to cook.

My first rice when I cook on that stove came all overcooked--black and brown. The kids wouldn't eat it. (Laughs) But then as you go along, you begin to come good. You know, it's something you don't stop doing it. You have to keep on. Because if you don't, then you starve.

MK: So for you, Moloka'i was a place of hardship.

JB: Hardship, learning, family life. If we have hardship here, I know what it is. We didn't have no electric lights either. We had table lamps. Kerosene oil lamps. Lanterns. That's what we studied by at night, by the kerosene oil.

We wash clothes by hand. My mother used to have a big stone. You know in the old days, they used to either wash with washing board. But those days, they didn't have washing boards. That came when the White man came. The thing was they wash on stones. The stones was shaped downward where your stroke can go down, you know. It's not flat. That's the way you wash your clothes all by hand.

MK: So comparing to Waikīkī, Moloka'i didn't have a lot of the conveniences that you could get in the city.

JB: No. Yeah. I went to Moloka'i [and] afterward staying there so many years and getting now more matured, when you look back, you look back in Moloka'i, there were no cars. Hardly any cars. Everybody was walking or traveling by horse, horseback. The beauty part of that was when it comes to Sunday and you watch all these people going to church on buggy. What you call with, all dressed up, you know. Just like looking pictures on the TV--people going all dressed up on the buggy. Was really something.

MK: Where were they going all dressed up?

JB: Church, going to church. 'Cause they really dressed to go to church.

MK: So those are the things that you remember about Moloka'i?

JB: Oh, yeah. You see, my whole family, we all could ride horse. We all ride horse. Even my mother. My mother was a good horse rider. We used to get the horse--to go to the post office we have to go three, four miles. So whoever is going to get the mail, get on the horse. Just like a Pony Express, run out and pick up the mail! (Laughs)

And then when you have your mail, it's news already past because of the boat's schedule coming to Moloka'i. If the boat schedule is Monday then you get your mail that day because they come in that day at night, Sunday night. You get your mail say, Monday. When you pick up your mail, you have the papers from the last mail day. Maybe the last mail day was Thursday. So you get your mail from Friday, Saturday, Sunday and that's Monday. So you reading all the old news. Yeah. (Chuckles)

MK: Those days Moloka'i was really country.

JB: Ah, yeah, real country. The town, Kaunakakai town, they used to call it "one-horse town" because they used to run cattle through the town for boating. There's certain places where you get hitching posts where you bring your horse and you tie your horse and do your shopping or whatever you doing.

MK: That was your times when you were a kid there, yeah?

JB: Oh yeah. Moloka'i didn't change too fast. Moloka'i was always backwards. Like when people used to come here for the first time, they were so surprised, you know. Just like people going here for the first time to New York City, you see. That same feeling.

MK: I'm going to change the subject a little bit. So you lived Moloka'i until 1935, '36, yeah? Then you came to Honolulu to go to McKinley High School.

JB: Right.

MK: And you stayed with your sister in the Punahou area in the beginning. Then in early 1936, January or February, you lived with your aunty. . . .

JB: Right. Right across here.

MK: In the lot next to. . . .

JB: At 2543 Hamohamo Road.

MK: And you stayed there until you got married?

JB: No. I stayed there until I graduated then I went home to Moloka'i. Because I was called back by the plantation superintendent. One of them was Thornton Lyman which was my boss.

When I went in that FFA [Future Farmers of America] and took first place in pineapple, I was really highly recommended by that Libby [i.e., Libby, McNeill and Libby] plantation. Every time when summer comes, see, when I like to work in the cannery, they always request for me to come back home. That's why I didn't work in the cannery. I go back and work in the fields with the people there.

Because Ho'olehua was the homestead, see. They like somebody to work among the homesteaders. That's the way I look at it. Because I was from the homestead, you know. They didn't have too many homestead, actually you call it "overseer or boss" or whatever, you see. When I went back, they put me in charge of all kind of things. Like I was an inspector. I was a checker. I was a luna. You know what a luna is? How young I was, I was a luna.

The workers there were all Filipino workers. It's not Hawai'i-born. They were all from Philippines. Yeah. To work with them, you have to know how to get around them or get to them, see. That's why they want me to come back because I could get to the Filipinos, you know. They talk little English.

MK: So you were called back by the company to work with the Filipino workers

JB: Yeah. As well as the homesteaders.

MK: How long were you on Moloka'i doing that?

JB: Well, when I was going school here, I wanted to work in the cannery but then you see, if I work in the cannery, I don't go stand in line on Dillingham [Boulevard] or whatever.

I always have a paper to go right in the office the Main Office and give that paper to maybe certain supervisor in there. And then they tell me, "Oh, you're hired. When shall I start? When we like

start?"

So I say, "Oh, how about next Monday."

"Oh, okay."

Because of that paper I give them. Because it's coming from the company in Ho'olehua. But then they come down and see if I came back.

My mother says, "No, he's gonna work in the cannery."

He said, "Oh, can you get a hold of him and tell him to come back. We get things set up for him back here."

So that's why I go back.

MK: So like summers you would go back [to Moloka'i].

JB: Yeah, from that time every summer I go back.

MK: Otherwise, you're in Waikīkī with your aunty?

JB: Yeah, going to school.

MK: What was your aunty's name?

JB: Victoria Williams. Vicky, they call her.

MK: In those days, what did your aunty's neighborhood look like?

JB: Oh, the neighbors was Kaawaka'auo. The Ewalikos. The Parker. The name that I gave on that list, they were all here yet.

MK: Oh, so you had the Parkers on the corner of Paoakalani [Avenue].

JB: Mervin Richards across the street. Yeah.

MK: Okay. Last time you were here [Waikīkī] was 1925. Then you came '35, '36 to stay at your aunty's place. What was the biggest change you saw in this area?

JB: Well, now, that is something. In fact, up front [on Kalākaua Avenue] the road was better. The stores was, you know, they had fixed up everything. There were lot of houses across where the stream was running across Paoakalani [Avenue]--there were no stream. It was all filled. They had cottage in there.

Oh, yeah, everything was kinda sprung up. Even going up to the zoo, the fountain, the goldfish, everything was still there. But then had lost some of its park, I think, yeah, from when I seen it, you know.

MK: You mentioned that the stores in the front on Kalākaua Avenue

were all fixed up.

JB: Yeah, you see, Aoki [Store] have moved now. Aoki [Store] had changed, changed to the other side, like 'Ōhūa [Avenue]. On this side [Paoakalani Avenue], had Ibaraki [Store].

MK: And how about the stores in between? What was there?

JB: Well, they were all there. There were Blue Ocean Inn. The clothes cleaners. What was that pipi kaula place?

MK: Tahara's?

JB: Tahara's [Unique Cafe]! Yeah, still there. (Laughs) He was known for his pies and his Hawaiian food.

MK: When you say that the buildings were all fixed up, how were they different from the old buildings that you remember?

JB: Well, it was like renovate, you know, when you fix up something, the wood's old. You fix 'em up, make 'em look better. That's the way I seen it.

In other words, now, the Lemon [family] wasn't staying there on that Lemon Estate. It was the Mossman, see. They had their thing going. During the weekend, they had their luaus going for tourists. She [Mrs. Mossman] was teaching hula and things like that. Yeah. It was a big thing for tourists. That was the place for luau.

MK: That was the Mossman's Lalani Village.

JB: Yeah, Mossman Lalani Village. It was fabulous. They had torches all over the place, you know. All around from Paoakalani [Avenue] up on Kalākaua [Avenue], they had their torch going. One of the big scene was the dancing of the volcano. It was just like real. They had fire going up and everything. Yeah.

MK: Like the Mossman were new people moving in, yeah?

JB: Ah, well, yeah. When I came back, yeah.

MK: Who were the other new people in the neighborhood around '35?

JB: I wouldn't know. They were all the same. The Manus were still there. The Parkers. The De Regos. Everybody was still here.

MK: How about in that area where the stream had been covered up?

JB: Well, I don't know who was living there. But they had houses sprung up in there. You know, cottages, bungalows or whatever you call it. It was kinda building up now. Never had that open space where you get the swamp like.

MK: You mentioned that there were tours now coming down to the Lalani Village. And by the time you came back, you had the Royal Hawaiian [Hotel], you have Halekūlani [Hotel].

JB: Halekūlani [Hotel], the Moana [Hotel] was still there. But the Royal Hawaiian [Hotel] now just came about.

MK: What do you remember about that time with tourism kinda growing?

JB: Well, we used to sit down on the stone wall [near the beach], now it's, well, it's still a stone wall. So we sit there and then tourists going by. You see 'em going by. Well, we used to talk to them. Lot of them went to that Lalani Village.

'Cause where the tourist used to, either they walk from Moana [Hotel] when they come up here, instead of going out to the [Kapi'olani] Park side, they would go to the Lalani Village. Because that's where everything was at that time.

MK: And then back here, the [Ala Wai] Canal was . . .

JB: Oh, the [Ala Wai] Canal was kinda fixed up already. Everything looks better. Never had that swamp land too much. It was mostly fixed up. Just like the zoo, everything. But never have fence [around the zoo]. It was all open. The fence, I think, came in after the war [World War II], I think.

MK: How about things like the Natatorium? You were still like a teenager so . . .

JB: Well, when I came back, they had that Natatorium. But that time when I was young never had that Natatorium. But when came back, had that Natatorium.

MK: Did you go out to the Natatorium?

JB: Well, I never did go in there. But we walked. That was known as the Public Baths area down that side.

Oh, you mean the Natatorium where they swim? Oh, yeah! Yeah! When I came back, yeah, that were here. When I was here, they didn't build that.

After coming back in '30s, yeah that's where they get their swimming meets. Them days they had the Hui Makanis. That's under Harvey Chilton. We had all good swimmers that days. You heard about Bunny Pong, Diamond and all that. I remember going to school when McKinley [High School] used to be good in swimming because you have all the wharf rats.

(Interview interrupted, then resumes.)

MK: You were talking about the wharf rats. Where are the wharf rats from?

JB: Kaka'ako boys. The one used to dive for money from the ships. Lot of them kids used to go to McKinley [High School]. They used to swim in the Hui Makani Club under Harvey Chilton.

MK: How about any good swimmers from the Waikīkī area?

JB: Oh, well, way back, they used to hang around the beach. Things like Duke Kahanamoku and them, yeah, they all come from beach area like this. But I'm talking about when I going to school. McKinley [High School] had the best.

I remember this that they were going to Maui to challenge some of the Maui swimmers. And guess what? They got beaten over there. Yeah, they got beaten over there so it was a home and home series now. They were supposed to come to McKinley [High School], a return match. And you know who was swimming over in Maui? Nakama, Keo. All of them. They figure they gonna get 'em back in McKinley [High School]. Same thing. They beat the boys here.

MK: He was fast.

JB: Yeah. And the coach was [Sōichi] Sakamoto? Yeah. That was the news them days. These Maui swimmers.

They say, "Oh, they don't have swimming pools. They swim in the cane ditch, you know, the flumes and stuff like that. That's where they train." No, but I seen lot of event at the Natatorium.

MK: Swimming events at the Natatorium?

JB: Yeah.

MK: So when you came back in '35, I was wondering what kind of neighborhood activities there were--church activities or what?

JB: Oh, '35? Well, I was more going to school. We run around during the weekends like Saturdays and Sunday with the Kuramotos. I used to run around with them. We go either show or swim or go surf or go to the movies. Or go in town Bethel Street and play pool. (Laughs)

MK: Where did you folks go movies those days?

JB: Well, Waikīkī Theatre. When did it open? '36 or '37? I know the first movie over there, were playing, we tried to get in, we didn't get in. That was Under Two Flags, Claudette Colbert and who was the other actor? Oh, I forgot.

But the second run, it ran for a week. From Friday to the following week. Friday night they change. That's the preview. Comes on at ten o'clock. The second movie there was Showboat. Jeanette MacDonald and Allen, the singer. Who was the colored singer now? Paul Robeson. That was the second movie playing anyway.

Starting from there, we started from the second movie, and we didn't miss a movie Friday nights. Then we bought, the boys all got together. We bought the whole row, fourteen seats--A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J. J row, number nine because never had I row. They took [it out]. I don't know why. A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-J. See? Never had I. So we took that row.

Every Friday night, we put it under "Peachy"'s brother's name, Herbert. Herbert Ewaliko. Then when we congregate at the store or in front, we'd go out there. Then we'd ask them, "You going to the show? You going to the show?" The first fourteen would get the whole row.

For years we did that. Then we had to cut down from fourteen to ten. And carry on until went out. Then sometimes we don't go, some of the boys, you know, go, they ask for that name Herbert Ewaliko. They give the whole thing, the whole row.

When you go there to buy that movies, it's not only for you because you collected all the money from the different ones to make up that ten or fourteen.

MK: How much did it cost those days?

JB: Chee, how much did it cost those days? Forty cents?

(Laughter)

MK: I know my time, when my parents used to take me Waikīkī Theatre. . . .

JB: What year that?

MK: Late '50s.

JB: Oh, yeah, my daughter and them.

MK: They always made me wear shoes. How about your time?

JB: Yeah, you have to go in there. You cannot go in with slippers. We have to wear shoes. Well, them days, the boys them days, we dress, you know. We don't run around with, when we go in town show, we don't wear slipper. That slipper deal came after.

MK: How did you folks dress up then to go Waikīkī Theatre?

JB: Well, with jeans, and shirt but not tie. And shoes.

MK: What did Waikīkī Theatre look like back then?

JB: Well, it's the same looking like this. I cannot describe it any better. You know, now, they have all these little stores and things [next to it]. Never had all that. You just go right in. You congregate outside, what you call it?

MK: The lobby area?

JB: The lobby area until the theatre is ready for you then you go in.

MK: You said nowadays have the stores and everything around there. What was around there back then?

JB: Oh, around there was like one side was what, what street is that? Seaside? Yeah, Seaside [Avenue], it was all open. Right across the street had that restaurant. But on Liberty House side, never had stores there. You know where International Market Place, around that area, we had a "Wee Golf." You remember that?

MK: Pee Wee Golf.

JB: You remember that?

MK: I've heard of it.

JB: We had, I don't know, nine-hole or eighteen-hole. We used to go there kill time before we go to the show. You know, if we had a lot of time? We'd just kill time and we go to the show.

MK: You know in those days, what other things did you folks young guys do? You went to the movies. You went Pee Wee Golf.

JB: Boxing, whatever you have.

MK: But where was the boxing?

JB: At Civic Auditorium. Not only boxing. Was basketball too, everything. Them days you had lot of local basketball teams, like the Dragons, South Seas, University of Hawai'i was in that league. Oh, they had Coca-Colas. Oh, yeah, we had all good basketball teams.

MK: Were there any people from Waikīkī playing in the basketball league?

JB: Well, not that I know of. But you see, way down on McCully, McCully [Street] and Kalākaua [Avenue] there used to be a, what did I say? Not Seaside. South Seas! South Seas, that was a restaurant and everything. They sponsored our team, basketball team. South Seas basketball team. Boys here was more football players. (Laughs) They all play football.

MK: Who were the big names in Waikīkī then who were playing football?

JB: Well, if you go way back, we had one. That was Sonny Kaeo. I don't know his first name. But he was with the "Wonder Team" of University of Hawai'i with Willy Wise and them. Then Holt, [Lemon] "Rusty" Holt, yeah. Then the Kaeo brothers, Danny and Aloha. They had lots of 'em.

MK: How about the Stonewall Gang? Were they still around when you came

back?

JB: Well, when I came back '35, they had just the one that living in this area. But then you see, lot of them got married, eh? They move out like some move out to Kalihi and all over. But once in a while they come down and met like they--like one of them was like "Bunick." Well, he was staying down Kalihi. They call him the "Bull." He used to come down, meet the boys, he would talk about his old days.

But then like Aloha Kaeo and them, we all live here, see. Afterwards it began to scatter out. But like them days, everybody living either in Kapahulu, Waikiki area or down, you know. Where they all congregate. It's not that they hang around each other but they congregate. But in doing your thing, everybody do his own thing. Some go to boxing. Some go to, you know. But when they meet, [they congregate]. That's why they call 'em the Stonewall Boys. Maybe they spend there all day, or part of the night, play music, things like that.

MK: Somebody told me that in the old days, the Stonewall Gang were like substitute fathers. Like if you were out at night, they'd tell you, "Better get on home."

JB: Well, yeah, just like me, if I go out there, they say, "Well, eh, little kid, you better get on home. Because it's bedtime for you! Come on. Git!" Or what they say, "I kick your pants!" or something like that. (Laughs) Or not they scare you then you run, you know. But then as you getting older, then you just like in the group, eh?

MK: How about the Stonewall Gang and women? I was wondering because some people have said that as more of the military came into the area, sometimes the Stonewall Gang would kinda take care of the women in the area.

JB: Oh, yeah, well, that's why there's this fort [i.e., Fort DeRussy] up here, see. Because them days you can tell military people the way they dress. I mean all these people with short hair and you know they in the military. What they used to do, they just used to walk the street. Then they used to make passes at young girls.

That's what the Stonewall Boys or the boys down there were more of a protection for them. That's why when they see the little girls walking out to the park, they say, "Eh, don't go up there." But them days, you could go but precautions sake. It was safe.

MK: Just changing the subject a little bit, when you came back to Honolulu, that was to go to McKinley [High School], yeah?

JB: Right.

MK: Those days, how did you go to McKinley [High School] from over here?

JB: Well, when we started we still had the streetcar. Them days was

only a nickel or dime or what. Oh, yeah. After the streetcar came the trolley. But once in a while, you see, I come from Moloka'i. I walk to school four miles. Yeah. Lot of mornings I walk from here to McKinley [High School].

When I walk, I go through the Ala Wai Canal then you cut short through Kapi'olani [Boulevard] and you go to McKinley [High School]. Where Holiday Mart--that was all swamp area in back of McKinley High School. By Pensacola [Street] was all swamp. That was all swamp yet. There was those swamp plants, weeds or whatever. Yeah. I used to walk.

Then maybe Kuramoto [JB's friend] say, "Eh! Did you go school yesterday?"

"Yeah. I walk. Let's walk tomorrow."

"Oh, no! Not me."

I used to walk, see. But then when I come home I catch the trolley at that time or the streetcar.

MK: And when you went to McKinley [High School], what was your major area of concentration of your studies?

JB: Well, my main subject was to be an agriculturist. But then you see, when I graduated from Moloka'i Intermediate [School], there was two schools that I planned to go to.

First [choice] was Kam [Kamehameha] School because of their agricultural studies, you know. They had a farm out here at Kuli'ou'ou. I visited that farm too. When we came here for the FFA [Future Farmers of America], we visited all the places. I just like see what they have to offer.

In fact, we went up to University of Hawai'i to see their part of their livestocks. It was very interesting. See, we never did have that on Moloka'i. But then, anyway, Kam [Kamehameha] School was on my priority list.

The next one was Lahainaluna [School]. They had a good field in farming, agricultural work. Say if I go to Lahainaluna [School], I don't have to pay tuition or anything. I could work my way through school by doing that kind of work. But then you have to milk the cows and things like that. That all goes to the student body or school. In other words, you working your way through school.

But then, (chuckles) most of my friends who I graduated with came to McKinley [High School]. When I applied for Kam [Kamehameha] School, see, I wanted to board. I didn't want no day scholar. They didn't have opening. But you see when you came from the outside island and go to Kam [Kamehameha] School, they board you. Because you have first preference. But then I don't know what happened.

They said, "We don't have no room for you."

So now I was in Honolulu. Then they told me that. Then I say, "The next jump is to Maui." But now since I came with all my friends, they went to McKinley [High School]. I say, "Oh, now where to? McKinley [High School] or Lahainaluna [High School]?" But I'm here already so I changed my mind and went to McKinley [High School].

MK: And you studied agriculture at McKinley [High School]?

JB: No.

MK: What did you study at McKinley [High School]?

JB: Commercial or whatever. High school work, regular studies. I try to take up commercial, but that wasn't my field.

MK: When you weren't studying, what kind of activities did you participate at?

JB: Well, football, volleyball. I ran a little track.

MK: How about any clubs?

JB: Well, you know, that's the thing. Lot of my friends told me, "Eh, c'mon Bishaw. Let's join the club, the Hawaiian Club." But you see, I wasn't more a singer. I was more active in whatever I do. So that's why I didn't join no clubs. But then, all my friends like the Hawaiian boys, the girls always pushing me for come.

"Oh, yeah, the next time I be there!" Never did. No.

MK: Then what year did you graduate?

JB: [Nineteen] thirty-eight.

MK: After you graduated, what kind of work did you go into?

JB: Oh, right away, I went back to Moloka'i. That was summer, eh? The company requested me. They found out from my mother that I was graduating. So they say, "Soon as he get his papers, if he get nothing, tell him to come back home."

But I know what I was gonna do already because I went back every summer, see. So I went back. I had a darn good job over there.

MK: Later on, I know you said you worked federal [government]. Tell me about that.

JB: Then I stayed in Moloka'i. Then I worked there after the season so then things began to get slack. You see, Moloka'i hardly any job unless you work for the plantation or the City and County or the State [government]. There wasn't too many private enterprises.

So I figured, "Might as well come back to Honolulu. See what they get to offer."

But my mother came to town. She came back and she said, "Oh, Jack. Your cousin looking for you. He said there's jobs opening, there is plenty for in town." But I was still working.

I was thinking, "Go. No go." So finally, I came. That was in 1939, the latter part of 1939 when I came. So I work the following day. But I didn't know that he had job with the contractors. You know, work for the contractor. I thought maybe was something else, eh?

MK: Where was this job?

JB: Building defense bases like at Kāne'ohe Marine Station. So that's where I started over there working under the contractors--CPNAB. CPNAB is Central Pacific, I think, Naval Air Base. It covers the whole Pacific Ocean. After the Japanese attack, still working there, we transfer over to Barbers Point still under the contractors. So in 1942, July 1942, I transfer over to Civil Service. I work there until I retired.

MK: When was that?

JB: That was ten years ago. June, 1974.

MK: And what did you retire as?

JB: Pipe fitter. Thirty-two years service, fifty-five years age. The government, you work fifty-five [years old] with thirty years [service], you could go out, see. But see they wanted me to stay back on one condition that I be put back in supervisory. But, they say, "Oh, no more opening." So I went out.

MK: So you took early retirement. You know the same year that you started working for Federal Civil Service, you got married right? How did you meet your wife?

JB: Well, you know them days. (Chuckles) You see, during the wartime, blackout. You get your light in the house, all your windows have to be black, either with something to keep the light from flashing out so then you can have your lights.

So lot of the people's houses was painted black or have black sheet or some kind of thing to keep the light in the house from going out, see. Even your cars, they have blackout lights. You cannot smoke with lighting your cigarette. They have blackout lighters where you just put through your cigarette and just puff. You cannot light a lighter.

I used to bring home the company car. I used to go ride. You cannot go nowhere. When I come home with the company car, that night I get the car. If I want to go Kalihi, I go. Then the MP [Military Police],

they used to stop me. They look. They say, "Where you going?"

I say, "I'm going to work."

"Where you work?"

So I show my badge. They say, "Oh, go."

I'm not going! (Laughs) I just riding around! Same thing when I come back, they stop me how many times. I say, "I'm going home now. I just got through working."

But since I was staying there. My wife was staying here. You cannot go out. So that's how I met my wife.

MK: You cannot go out far, so you found your wife nearby. I know your wife's nickname is "Peachy," but what's her real name?

JB: Pu'u Aloha.

MK: Ewaliko. Those days when, I know it's wartime you folks cannot go out sometimes but when you folks were getting to know each other where did you folks go?

JB: Well, then, we go out to the beach. Then afterwards, you could go out but then still it's blackout. They gonna come and say, "What you doing? Time. Eight o'clock you gotta get out. You get home."

MK: Then when you folks finally decided to get married, where did you folks get married?

JB: At the [St. Augustine's] Catholic Church. She and I got married there.

MK: What did the church look like?

JB: Ah, that was the old church. Not this new church. St. Augustine, that was the old church. That wooden structure building with all those lattice on the side. I think you see the picture, I think. Yeah.

MK: And who was the priest by that time?

JB: Father Gabriel, I think. If I'm not mistaken, it was Father Gabriel.

MK: So you got married at St. Augustine's. Where did you folks live?

JB: Well, I live with my aunt for a while. See, the Ewalikos had cottages. They had apartments one, two. One cottage get two apartments. So I live, afterward I live in one. The people moved out.

MK: What was the name of the Ewalikos' cottages?

JB: Well, I don't know what's the name but it's still "Kūkilakila," the whole area.

MK: And what does that mean?

JB: Stand majestically, I think. You know, its a high, stand tall, something.

MK: I was wondering what do you know about the history of the Ewaliko cottages, this area.

JB: Well, since you gonna see them [JB's sisters-in-law]. Only I know when I was living in it. That's all. It was a roof over my head. (Laughs) I had my two daughters and my two sons. No, my three daughters and two sons.

MK: And who were the other tenants that the Ewalikos rented to?

JB: Oh, well, they had the Kawaguchis. Kawaguchis was one. They staying in one. And then I forget who was the other one. What was his name. Chee, I forget his name. I know the boy's name is Marsh. (Laughs)

MK: Where did the Ewalikos live?

JB: They had a big house. Same thing like my grandma's house, I told you. It was an upstairs, downstairs house, see. The bottom, they put concrete in it, you know. Then they had their wash house and everything downstairs and all that.

MK: During the World War II time, how was life affected besides the blackouts? Anything else that really affected your life during the war years here?

JB: Chee, I couldn't remember what did affect me. Only I know that during that war years, we couldn't get out from work, vacation. You were frozen to your job. In other words, all that time, I couldn't go to Moloka'i. Couldn't take vacation. Yeah. Me and my wife and the kids. Soon as they had lifted that, that was in 1947 like where I work, see. Now all my years of working with the Civil [Service] from '42 to '47, that's five years, you figure how many days I had accumulated.

END OF SIDE TWO

TAPE NO. 13-28-1-85, SIDE ONE

MK: You were saying you accumulated. . . .

JB: All those hours, so now they told us we have to take our leave. We have too many. Yeah. That's when I went to Moloka'i with my

family. That was my wife's first trip to the island of Moloka'i with my kids. See, my wife, their family come from Hilo, see. She wanted to go to Hilo.

I said, "Okay. You go Hilo. I go Moloka'i."

Then I change. I say, "Why don't you go to Moloka'i. Then if you don't like it. You see, I know why because of the city life, yeah. Then if you don't like it, then you can go from Moloka'i to Hilo."

She went to Moloka'i. But you see, I haven't been back there for so long. You know, the Hawaiian-style when you go back to the place, you go visit your family, your friends. Just like how that boy who came back from Kona. That astronaut. You see what happened? Well, same thing, see. We have to go visit our family, you know.

Then I told her, "You know, we gonna visit. For every home we go, like my aunt's, the first thing they gonna tell you is, eat. They gonna set everything up and you gonna eat. If you cannot eat, just pick something, you know." Something like that. I don't know, I went to three or four [houses]. (Laughs)

Well, I know. I know the lifestyle. Like her, it's something new to her. And every time when you leave, they gonna make a pū'olo. You know, what's a pū'olo? It's a bag of goods like dry fish, squid. Whatever they get, they gonna put it [in] and you gonna take that home. Then we gonna go to the next one. Pretty soon, we had, in the back of the car, we had a lot of food in the back there. Yeah.

Then we go to Kaunakakai there, see. I know the people there. I introduce them to my wife. This my wife and all that. The best thing was, going back to Kaunakakai, me and my wife walking up they greet my wife. They don't greet me. They greet my wife. And then "Oh, hi!" Then after they greet me. And she said, "Eh, how come they do that?"

I said, "You know why? You, the malihini. They know me already. They making you feel at home. That's why." That's why they call Moloka'i, "The Friendly Isle." It's one of those things like that, you see. Like if they see me, they know me but they put their aloha towards my wife instead of me. But I know, you know what I mean.

MK: So that 1947 visit, how long did you folks stay on Moloka'i?

JB: Ah, we stay there one month. We stayed one month. We went fishing, crabbing and things like that. That was still good yet. Wasn't spoiled yet Moloka'i. You just could go down the beach.

This is how they, we used to catch the crab with the scoop net, you know and a bucket. The water is just below your knee. You see the crabs running and which ones you want, just scoop 'em. You know, it's not throwing bait in the ground, yeah. And these big ones, white crab and all that. In about hour's time, you fill your bucket.

That's it.

But people there, they just take enough to eat, you know. Like I remember my dad says, "When you go to the beach, you just get what you want to eat. And don't be 'ānunu." 'Ānunu means overdoing it, overtaking where you can't consume. In other words, you gonna waste, because that's your icebox and that's your refrigerator. Right there, the ocean. You want more, you can go back and get. If you not lazy! But if you lazy, then you starve! Yeah?

MK: Good idea.

JB: So that's why the people there before when they used to go, they just fish enough. If I have company at home maybe when I used to fish I just take so much. Now I gotta take a little more, yeah? It go according to what [you need]. Or you could take for the next day, you know what I mean? So you have but it's not to overtake and waste.

MK: So you folks stayed there one month Moloka'i then you came back, yeah? To Waikīkī.

JB: Go back work again. But you see that year, after, they told me I gotta take out another month. You see, what they were trying to do was trying to bring down our leave to be the quota what we supposed to keep like ninety hours. To bring it down to that level. We had too many, too much. But wasn't our fault, was the government's fault. But they won't pay you a lump sum. You have to take it out.

MK: So you have to use it.

JB: Yeah, you have to use it.

MK: So anyway, you're back to Waikīkī. I was wondering, when you look back on the '40s and the '50s, what kind of changes did you see happening in this area? Forties? Fifties?

JB: Well, you see, this building here is about twenty years old. Say in about the '60s this was built. Everything look just about the same with the old house, the family house. In the back, the Japanese camp. All the people were staying here yet. You know, the Jacksons. Never did have that high-rise.

They [Ewalikos] built this apartment. You know, when they built this apartment, this was the highest building [three stories high] in Waikīkī on this side from here to the beach. And if we wanted to look what kind of wave we get down at the beach, we just go on the roof and look out and you can see the ocean, see. That's how in the '60s things was still low-rise. Yeah? After this building came up, then everything start sprouting up like the next door, down the street but all this size building.

MK: Three, four-story high.

JB: Yeah, until what that Makani Kai and Holiday Inn came up. That ruined the view of the ocean.

MK: Then the high-rises. . . .

JB: Then they start sprouting up from here and there, Esther Jackson's [Crescent Park condominium]. All over the place. Yeah. In the back of us this Nāpualani, yeah.

MK: So you notice that changed, the condo, the high-rise

JB: Then it came fast, you know. It came really fast. But in the other area, I think it started in the late '50s, I think.

MK: You mean, 'Āinahau side?

JB: Yeah, well, all around. Like all over the place. They start building slow. But then the boom came after.

MK: What do you think about this?

JB: Well, you know, I always said, "You cannot stop progress." You have to look for the future. The future come. But then, you know, it could be for the better, for the worse, how you take it. But you have to make it. Yeah. The people have to. You cannot let it go. You have to make it go.

MK: And then with the apartment buildings and condos, how are the people in the neighborhood nowadays?

JB: Nowadays, you stay in your own vicinity, your own lot or whatever you call it. Yeah, unless I know Esther Jackson, see? Asuka. But other than that what? See I don't know who's across here. I know some people but how many of them? I don't know.

Before you know everybody, eh? Right around the block. "Where you work? You still on Lemon [Road]? Or you still on Cartwright [Road]?" You know where they live. But now it's not like that.

MK: How do you feel about that, that kind of change?

JB: I don't know. I'm not against it. What can you do? See. As I say, "Progress, how you gonna stop it?" See, you take for instance when you look, the last place they say is Moloka'i for building. See these people they putting up petition and things like that. But then, you see, sure it's gonna take some place out but then you gotta look for your family. There's no jobs there. Where they gonna work?

Now lot of these people they try to stop Kaluako'i [a resort development on Moloka'i], finally they let it go build it. There's lot of people who were against it working in there. See what I mean?

You know something? When I was Moloka'i, this was when I was in,

about ninth grade or eighth grade. See my dad, he's a smoker. He either smoke cigar, pipe or chew tobacco. I know when I was young, he had a spittoon. You know what a spittoon? He used to spit in the spittoon, chew tobacco it was so good.

Anyway, was back at that time, I used to talk to my dad. I think of all the boys, I'm the only one used to talk to him. But he used to drink, see. I see him sit on the porch with his chair and his cigar in the mouth, only by himself. Then I don't know if he dreaming or what, or reminiscing stories. So I come up and, not to arouse him, but slowly approach him so that he see me. See, it's not good to scare somebody, yeah?

So, "Hi, Dad." But we don't call him, "Dad." We call him, "Dear." D-e-a-r. That's how we call our dad. Later in life, we call him, "Dad." When we were young, we still call our dad, "Dear."

So anyway, "Hi, Dear."

"Oh, yeah."

I say, "Oh, you taking it easy?"

"Yeah."

So I say, "What's on your mind?" I tell my dad what's on your mind?

And hear this inter-island plane flying, the Sikorsky. You know the old plane, flying. You can see 'em going down towards the airport.

So he say, "Well, I just looking at that plane there flying."

I say, "Well, you see any changes?" like how you asking me. "You see any changes in that plane flying?"

He say, "You know son, I'm gonna tell you something." And he told me everything. You see, my dad is a learned man, you know. He went to St. Louis [College]. He do lot of reading. And he always stress to us, "Read. Read." That's why I know all about sports, all about what goes on, through the newspaper. You know, like you talk about any football players way back, I know. Because I use to read the paper and that stays in me, see.

He always said, "Read. If you don't read book, read anything you get--paper, magazine. Read." He used to do a lot of reading.

Then he said, "You know. . . ."

Then I said, "Oh, there's something on your mind. Can you tell me?"

"Oh," he said, "well, you know, it's something big."

I say, "What you mean?"

He say, "You know, come a day son, see that plane flying? It's gonna do people good. You see that plane. It's not gonna be like that."

He said, "People are gonna live in Moloka'i and work in Honolulu."

And then I said, "Where they gonna work?"

He said, "Well, you take, for instance, Pearl Harbor." And he say, "If you live in Honolulu, you stay out in Kaimukī, the one live in Moloka'i will reach the job ahead of you because he flying and he in some place." "Because maybe," he said, "they gonna build the airport where you can get on and get to your job."

I say, "Hard to believe, you know."

Yeah, he told me all those things. Then when I look, sometimes I tell my wife, "You know something, thing just came back to me."

Today, today people are flying to Moloka'i to work and they are coming back! Yeah, back and forth. You go down to the airport. Not the Hawaiian Airlines. You go to these small airlines, lot of people they catching that plane that goes up seven o'clock in the morning. They working up there. After work, they flying back home.

MK: What your father said turned out to be true, yeah?

JB: Yeah. And that's not the only thing. You see, then I always talk to him. Sometimes he look, he can imagine he looking at the cloud he can see pictures of things, you know.

(Chuckles) He say, "For instance, you look at that cloud, you can see a castle, you know. On the horizon?"

I say, "I don't see no castle in there."

He say, "Well, one day. One day when you, I don't know what he used to say. When you look up there, you gonna see not only castle, you gonna see lot of things." Today, I see all that. You have to picture those things, you know.

Then he told me about this pollution. This was 1934, '35. He told me about this pollution. I don't know how we came into the subject. But he told me, "Honolulu going to be so overcrowded with people. The problem gonna be water."

I say, "Water?"

He say, "Yeah. And then your problem gonna be water and gonna be pollution."

I say, "Pollution in where?"

He said, "Pollution in the air. Pollution in the water."

I said, "How can you get pollution in the water?"

He said, "Sewage."

You see, I didn't think of those things. (Chuckles) Yeah, sewage. He said would be so overcrowded. And the pollution--but when I look at it, that's true! It polluted our ocean. And all these things. The cars is polluting the air.

MK: So your father had foresight, yeah?

JB: Yeah. He had. That's why when they told me all about this, in fact, I even told my wife about this. The rest of my family don't know about it. That's why my children said, "Dad."

"What?"

"You better sit down and write your story. You know, because then we have something."

So I was trying to write, you know.

MK: But now we have a tape so easier.

JB: Yeah, but you know, there's plenty more things yet.

MK: But anyway, I have to change the subject, you know, to make sure we finish up on Waikīkī.

JB: All right.

MK: You educated and you raised your kids in Waikīkī, yeah? I was wondering what are your feelings about Waikīkī as a place to raise your children?

JB: Today?

MK: Well, the days when you were raising your children.

JB: Well, I get no kickback on it. The way I look at it, is first you look at your wife. You and your wife have to do it. It cannot be one. Have to be two. So me and my wife we get along. We get squabbles. We get this and that but we get along.

The first thing we look is at our kids, see. I'm not that type to go out drink and drunk and things like that. Oh, I take a few and things like that. The kids come first. I was taught by my folks. See, like if we get birthday parties or eating on the table, take care the kids first. Move 'em on the side then the adults can have everything to themselves. Yeah.

MK: So for you, Waikīkī was okay.

JB: Yeah, it was okay. I see what you mean. And then you ask a lot of people, they say, "Oh, if I had a change in my life. I wish there was a change."

Then I would say, "What would you do?"

"Oh, I would do this."

Then I say, "Then you see all your mistakes. What you doing you correcting your mistakes."

Then he say, "Yeah."

Then you know what I tells him or her, "Then you wouldn't be here today."

Yeah. I said, "You could dream. It's good to dream. But don't dream small. Dream big." Because it's not true, right? (Laughs)

MK: Like right now, I'm wondering, when I came here last weekend there were lot of Ewalikos and Bishaws here, yeah. How many of the Ewalikos and Bishaws live around here?

JB: Oh, myself?

MK: Yeah, yourself, your wife

JB: Oh, no. My wife--you mean, in this area?

MK: Yeah, in this compound.

JB: No. Oh, Bishaw, this, me and my children. I get my son living upstairs. One of my daughter living downstairs. Another daughter staying in 203. Yeah.

MK: How about the Ewalikos?

JB: The Ewalikos, all you see here is except Harriet. Harriet lives in Wahiawā. Even Beth, the one living. She doesn't live here. She live in Mākaha. But she takes an apartment here, is closer to her work. But like Ethel. Ethel lives here. Her husband died so she move in here.

MK: I notice there were grandchildren and great-grandchildren this past weekend.

JB: Oh. (Laughs) That, part of that is mine. They come visit. They come for the day.

Sometimes I call them up and say, "Eh, I'll be coming down to Waimānalo."

They say, "Oh, Grandpa, there's nothing down here."

I say, "Why?"

"We wanna come Waikīkī."

So I talk. I say, "Okay."

MK: Oh, the newer generations are outside of Waikīkī.

JB: Yeah.

MK: This is the last question. Okay? As you look in the future, what do you hope that the Ewalikos and Bishaws will do with this place in Waikīkī?

JB: Ah, well, I hope they keep the place as it is, you know, written up in the will or whatever. It's an estate. In the estate just like if they have ten of 'em, everybody get one-tenth of a share, you know.

In that category, the best thing is to ask my wife. I cannot answer those things because it doesn't belong to me. It's my wife's family. What she says maybe is not--they have to get together and agree. But the chief who runs the place is my wife.

(Laughter)

JB: No. You see, she brought--I can say this, she brought the place up today as it is now, see.

When this place was paid up, she told me, "Well, the place is all paid up. What shall we do?"

I said, "Well, you gotta announce it to your family." So she announce it to her family. Their eyes all big. Yeah, it was very good but she went into lot of pilikia. You know what is pilikia--trouble, in bringing this place up where it is today.

But then I said, "Now, this place still has problems yet." Problems still come in. One of them is maybe maintenance of the place--painting, maybe changing lot of lumbers or things like that. You see that takes money. Yeah. Otherwise, it's all right. She's the one that you have to see.

MK: But otherwise

JB: Otherwise, it's all right. But then she's the one you have to see about this here.

MK: So today, I'm going to end the tape here. Thank you.

JB: Okay. Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW

WAIKĪKĪ, 1900 - 1985: ORAL HISTORIES

Volume I

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
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